

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a light stabilized material comprising a hydrophilic, amphoteric or anionic polymer, or a mixture thereof, having antimicrobial activity comprising the steps of

a) preparing a solution comprising an organic solvent and a source of silver in a quantity sufficient to provide a desired silver concentration in said material;

b) subjecting a polymer to said solution for a time sufficient to incorporate the desired silver concentration into said polymer; and

c) subjecting said material, during or after step (b), to one or more agents which facilitate the binding of said silver ~~or into~~ into said polymer, ~~which wherein the silver~~ is substantially photostable in the light stabilized material upon drying of said material, ~~comprising the hydrophilic, amphoteric or anionic polymer, but which will dissociate from the light stabilized material to release said silver~~ upon rehydration of said material.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

d) using wherein said light stabilized material is used in a medical device.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

d) using wherein said light stabilized material is used in a wound dressing.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

d) using wherein said light stabilized material is used in an ostomy device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said source of silver comprises a silver salt.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said silver salt is selected from the group consisting of silver nitrate, silver chloride, silver sulphates, silver lactate, silver bromide, silver acetate and/or mixtures of said salts.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more agents is selected from the group consisting of ammonium salts, thiosulphates, chlorides and peroxides.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said one or more agents is a metal halide.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said one of more agents comprises an ammonium salt is selected from ammonium chloride, ammonium acetate, ammonium carbonate, ammonium sulphate and/or mixtures of said salts thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of comprises a polysaccharide, or a modified polysaccharide, a polyvinylpyrrolidone, a polyvinyl alcohol, a polyvinyl ether, a polyurethane, a polyacrylate, a polyacrylamide, a collagen, a gelatin, or and a mixtures thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer comprises a polysaccharide comprises selected from a carboxymethylcellulose, or an alginate or a mixtures thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of industrial methylated spirit, denatured ethanol, methanol, acetone, isopropyl alcohol and ethanol.

--13. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the desired silver concentration is between 0.1 and 20 wt%.

14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the desired silver concentration is between 1 and 20 wt%.

15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the time sufficient to incorporate the desired silver concentration into the polymer is between 1 and 120 minutes.

16. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the time sufficient to incorporate the desired silver concentration into the polymer is between 1 and 60 minutes.

17. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer in step (c) is subjected to the one or more agents for 5 to 30 minutes.